

TOXIC MATERIALS NEWS IN BRIEF

Cancer control and prevention has been largely ignored by National Institutes of Health. UCLA Public Health Dean Lester Breslow told a national cancer conference recently, and suggested the government's cancer prevention program be taken out of National Cancer Institute. "Time after time in the past 25 years the National Institutes of Health has relegated cancer control and disease control generally to the back washes of the institutes, failed to seek adequate funding or take leadership, or literally squeezed it out of the budget," Breslow said. "Cancer control needs its own strong advocates."

President Carter, meanwhile, has decreed that April is "Cancer Control Month" -- a designation intended to educate people to "take advantage of available resources to prevent needless suffering and death... Cause and prevention research remains one of our highest priorities," Carter said, "because prevention offers the best hope for ultimate control of cancer."

National Cancer Institute has announced publication of bioassay reports on dye pigment diarylanilide yellow and pesticides methoxychlor, malathion and trifluralin. Only trifluralin was found to be carcinogenic -- in the livers of female mice. All four reports will be available next week from Office of Cancer Communications, NCI, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Asbestos brake drums emit chrysotile fibers which are deformed enough to be especially hazardous, Lab. [redacted] has announced. Seshon said [redacted] the hazard presented, and when these fibers are released in the air, they expose repairmen to heightened threats of lung disease and cancer.

Consumer Product Safety Commission would need additional funding of \$5-million to implement pending legislation ordering safety rules for cellulose insulation, CPSC Chairman John Byington told a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee last week. Byington also noted that if the agency is required to deal with various chronic hazards identified in an emerging National Cancer Institute study, an additional \$5-million and 50 staff positions will be required. Byington asked that Congress appropriate \$3.4-million more for CPSC than the \$44.8-million President Carter had recommended in his budget.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration has named 11 members to a new standards advisory committee on skin hazards. Committee was formed to identify the occupational exposures in industry which pose a hazard to the skin and to develop a set of guidelines for OSHA to use in drafting a proposed standards on skin hazards.

Department of Agriculture's nitrosamine panel has recommended the department issue a warning that "the risk of cancer is increased when fried bacon or the rendered fat from it are consumed." The panel called nitrosamines "a potent carcinogen" and said they are consistently found in bacon treated in the home.

New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection has released preliminary results of a statewide groundwater testing program which is examining 500 wells for selected organic compounds, pesticides and metals. DEP Commissioner Rocco Ricci said early results show that water quality, in most cases, is far better than the Federal drinking water standards, although 20 violations were found out of 250 wells. Almost all of the wells contained traces of some of the chemicals being sampled, with the majority of wells contaminated by organic compounds located in heavily populated industrial areas and those contaminated by pesticides more prevalent in agricultural spots. State will similarly test air and surface water, DEP said.

Justice Department has filed a \$20-million suit against Outboard Marine Corp., Waukegan, Mich., charging the firm with discharging 2-million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls into Waukegan Harbor and Lake Michigan. The government asked the court to order the firm to clean up the accumulated PCBs.

Illinois Attorney General's office has filed suit against Amoco Oil Co., and Amoco Pipeline Co. in an attempt to recover more than \$838,000 in penalties and damages from the companies for two spills of xylene last December. The first spill occurred near Danville when a pipeline transporting the petroleum by-product broke, allowing 700,000 gallons of the substance to leak into the Wabash River. The second spill happened near Humrick with only a few hundred gallons escaping, but vapors were so strong in the area of the spill that local residents had to be evacuated.

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